d. Load inspection studies for major load centres are being conducted.

e. Penalty for imprisonment is also being imposed on the culprits.

f. With the help of computerization of billing process, abnormal consumption of consumers is being detected. If consumption is less than 15% of the average, cases are immediately inspected for detecting tampering of meter/theft of energy.

The Government of India has also launched a scheme for Accelerated Power Development Programme for renovation & modernization/life extension uprating of existing old power plants, and upgradation of sub-transmission & distribution network including energy audit activities and metering in the distribution circles in a phased manner. In the first phase of this programme, since rechristened as Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP), 63 distribution circles in the States have been taken up for intensive upgradation so as to serve as models for remaining circles in the country for improvement in a phased manner. The Government has made an allocation of Rs. 3500 crores during 2002-03.

The Government of India had also set up a Steering Committee for preparing guidelines/manuals for improvement of Sub-transmission & distribution systems on a scientific basis. These include guidelines on Energy Accounting and audit, which would help in containing commercial losses.

Necessary amendments have been enacted to the IE Act, 1910 to make theft of electricity a cognizable offence. Stricter provisions and penalties are envisaged in the Electricity Bill, 2001 in case of power theft.

Water shortage in Athurvala Vistapeeth, Dehradun

3289. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tehri dam oustees who have been settled in Athurvala Vistapeeth, Dehradun are facing acute water shortage, as the installed tubewells are not functioning properly;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to solve the water crisis in the area;

(c) whether Government propose to divert water from the "Swang" river to Athurvala Vistapeeth area;

(d) if so, by when;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what steps are being taken to ensure adequate and proper functioning of the tubewells in the above area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (f) According to the Government of Uttaranchal, 8 tubewells installed in Bhaniawala (renamed as Athurwala revenue village), where some affected families of Tehri Dam have been settled, are adequate for drinking water and irrigation facilities and are functioning. The State authorities are studying the proposal for providing irrigation facilities from river "SAUNG".

New policy to promote FDI in Hydro Power Sector

3290. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any new policy to promote foreign direct investment in hydro power generation sector by discouraging generation of costly power which is generated through the utilization of various petro products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government had formulated a policy in 1991 to encourage greater investment by the private sector in the power sector. Keeping in view the growing demand for power in the country and the need for more investment in this sector, the Government of India, as part of further liberalization of the Foreign Direct Investment regime, has on June 12, 2000, decided to remove the upper limit for foreign direct investment in respect of projects relating to electric generation, transmission and distribution(other than atomic reactor plants).

The use of certain liquid hydro carbon liquid fuels for generation of electricity was permitted under the liquid fuel policy announced in